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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Benin and Madagascar: draft resolution

Assistance to Benin, the Central African Republic and Madagascar

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/230 of 21 December 1990 on assistance to Benin, the Central African Republic, Ecuador, Madagascar and Vanuatu and its previous resolutions on assistance to those countries,

Having considered the relevant report of the Secretary-General, 1/

Deeply concerned at the seriousness of the economic and financial crisis prevailing in those countries, which is heightened by the catastrophic effects of natural disasters,

Noting that, despite the structural adjustment programmes carried out by those countries, their economic and financial performance for the past two years has continued to be poor, and stressing the need for vigorous support of these programmes and for action to alleviate the impact of natural disasters and of the adjustment policies being implemented, especially in the social sphere,

Noting that the financial crisis which Benin is undergoing has led to a slowing down of its economic and social development and that the disastrous consequences of repeated floods during the past ten years, alternating with

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1/ A/47/737.

periods of drought and pluviometric disturbances, are a major impediment to the implementation of development policies and strategies,

Noting the grave difficulties that the Government of the Central African Republic has continued to face since 1982 in achieving the objectives of its development programme owing to the harmful effects of the international economic situation, and the need to provide it with supplementary resources so as to enable it to achieve those objectives,

Noting that Madagascar's economic and social development efforts are being thwarted by the adverse effects of the cyclones, floods and drought that afflict that country periodically, and that the implementation of reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes requires the mobilization of substantial resources that are beyond the country's real means,

Noting the particularly difficult problems faced by island developing countries in responding to negative and special economic circumstances, as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General 2/ called for in General Assembly resolution 45/202 of 21 December 1990,

Concerned at the devastating effects of natural and other disasters on the environment and at their adverse effects on the economy, and emphasizing, in that context, the need to implement the decisions and recommendations contained in Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Taking note of the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 3/ the United Nations new agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s, 4/ and the Cartagena Commitment, adopted in February 1992 at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and mindful of the mutual commitments entered into on those occasions, as well as the importance to be attached to the implementation of the programmes of action adopted at those Conferences,

Taking note also of its resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Having heard the statements of Member States at its forty-seventh session on the situations currently prevailing in those countries,

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2/ A/47/414 and Add.1.

3/ See A/CONF.147/Misc.9.

4/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General, Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional, interregional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the assistance they have provided or pledged to those countries;

2. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Governments of those countries to overcome their economic and financial difficulties and to alleviate the catastrophic effects of natural disasters;

3. Reaffirms that all Governments and international organizations should fulfil the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 3/ the United Nations new agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s, 4/ the Cartagena Commitment, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and Agenda 21;

4. Notes with concern that the assistance made available to those countries has not been adequate to meet their urgent requirements and that additional assistance is needed;

5. Appeals to Member States, the international financial institutions of the United Nations, humanitarian organizations and voluntary agencies to respond generously and urgently to the needs of those countries and to continue and increase their assistance in response to the reconstruction, economic recovery and development needs of those countries;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps and to mobilize the resources needed, in collaboration with the organs, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/230 on special programmes of economic assistance, to provide assistance for all disasters, natural or otherwise, striking those countries:

(a) In order to meet any reconstruction needs resulting from disasters that have already occurred;

(b) In order to implement preventive programmes to reduce the effects of future disasters, taking into account the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; 5/

5/ Resolution 46/236, annex.

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(a) The identification of priorities for action by the international community in those countries;

(b) An assessment of the assistance actually received by those countries;

(c) An assessment of needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding to them effectively.